

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 4 NO. 5

MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE



FACT AFFAIR

"A Spring Affair"
Benefiting FACT
(Fighting AIDS
Continuously
Together)

Sunday, May 20 at the Berkleigh Country Club, Route 222, Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 7 pm. Menu: Cocktail Hour: Assorted Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres. Dinner: Tossed Salad with Raspberry Walnut Vinaigrette, Carving Station presenting: London Broil and Turkey. Full service Pasta Station, Culinary Delights of your Choice, Assorted Vegetables, Rolls and butter. Dessert: Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Fresh Fruit and Baked Sweets, Coffee and Tea Service.

Cost: \$45 per person, country club attire. Cash Bar. Live Auction. Entertainment by the fabulous Stevie Z. FACT is currently seeking donations for the auction. Please contact FACT if you have an item to donate. Remember all items are tax deductible. RSVP by May 14. For reservations or questions call FACT at 610-820-5519.

PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL AND COLLEGE FILM WEEK

The LV Pride College and Main Feature Film Festival is being organized by several hard working volunteers. All Shows: 7:30 pm. Suggested admission donation: \$4.

College Film Week Schedule:

Monday, June 4 - Trumbower Hall - Muhlenberg College.

Tuesday, June 5 - Lehigh University or Lafayette U.

Wednesday, June 6 - Miller 33 - Cedar Crest College (tentative).

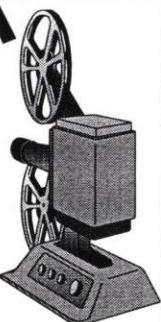
Thursday, June 7 - Moravian College.

Friday, June 8 Northampton Community College.

Main Feature Film Festival night is Wednesday, June 13 at Theatre Outlet, at 7:30 pm and suggested admission donation: \$5. The Pride Film Fest needs volunteers.



Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basis listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations requesting VFP to publish information maintain a similar policy.



GLOSS PICNIC

The Gay and Lesbian Organized sports Society-GLOSS, will be having its annual picnic on Saturday, May 19. There will be volleyball at 2 pm, followed by a cookout at 6pm and "Game Night." Call: 610-434-2966 for information.

PARTY ELECTION NIGHT

On May 15, there will be an election night party at Allentown City Council candidate Gail Hoover's house in Hamilton Park, Allentown. It will start at 8:30 pm, just after the polls close. Come and cheer on your favorite candidate. Enjoy snacks and beverages and time with old and new friends. It will be the place to be on election night. A small donation at the door will help defray expenses. Call 610-432-5449 for further information and directions.

THE NEXT VFP WILL COME OUT
AT THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

PRIDE FEST- JUNE 16

"Celebrate Diversity," the 2001 international Pride theme will be heard loud and clear when Pride of the Lehigh Valley holds the 8th annual festival and 3rd annual parade in celebration of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community, Saturday, June 16.

Fabulous live entertainment will include: The Todd Wolfe Blues Project (Todd was formerly with Sheryl Crowe), Eyele Yetunde & the Zawadi Collective (African drumming and dancing), Trap Door (funkadelica & spaceships), and L-Kche (Latin Salsa). The first ever Ms. and Mr. LV Pride (Drag Queen and King) will be crowned by the LV Royal Court (Mr. and Ms. Stonewall and Mr. and Ms. DiamonZ) after their performances on main Stage.

Another exciting first is the addition of another stage! Look for more details soon on the many talented drag and other performers to be showcased.

The official expanded "KidSpace" family area will feature face-painting, storytelling, candy donated from Just Born, arts and crafts activities donated by Binney & Smith, plus lots of GAMES! (There will also be games for the big kids this year, possibly even a dunking tank!).

For more info or to get involved, contact Pride LV. (voice mail: 610-770-6200, email: <pridelv@hotmail.com>, web: <www.pridelv.org>).



PLANET

Parenthood

edited by Carolyn Lewis

KIDS AND FESTIVALS

I believe in immersing kids in diversity. And Pride events are wonderful opportunities for experiencing the glorious diversity in the human race. Pride events are one of the few arenas where the GLBT community can express themselves in public and in relative safety. It's only natural that parades and festivals are filled to capacity with people wearing their lives, beliefs and convictions on their sleeve. Or t-shirt. Or head. Or tattooed on some regularly unexposed area of the body.

As a lesbian, I'm aware that part of the definition of lesbian is a woman who is sexually attracted to other women. Gay men are sexually attracted to other men, etc. So when we celebrate in a Pride event, part of what we celebrate is that attraction. Makes sense. But I also want to celebrate with the community our shared culture and heritage, and feminism, and the fight we all share against oppression. These are the things I want to share with my children as well.

Fortunately, the Pride organizers have made an effort to be inclusive of families with kids. I appreciate the attention paid to family tents, and child oriented activities. I want my children to know what transgendered means or that sometimes some men like to look feminine, or dress like women and vice versa. I want my children to know that many types of people co-exist naturally on this planet and even in their own neighborhood.

I attended last year's event with my children and it was a very positive experience. People were respectful and considerate. Even though I had been worried I'd have to try to explain a penis hat or possibly a leather outfit, there was very little during the day that gave me, or my children, pause. While there may occasionally be a booth with something of an "adult" nature for sale, the organizers seemed to tactfully position those booths away from the booths set up for kids.

Parents who are concerned about this dilemma, should make their concerns known to the festival organizers, or better yet, volunteer to help with some of the family oriented booths. The Lehigh Valley Pride Festival is June 16. You and your family will be missing something special if you don't attend.

PFLAG NEWS

The next PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting will be Sunday, May 13, from 3pm to 5 pm at Northampton Community College, in College Center Room 134.

The topic will be, "Connecting Life's Journeys" and will feature guest speaker David Beverly who will talk about how to stay connected with family members during the coming out process. For further information contact the PFLAG hotline at 610-967-5219.

AS IF... SAYS THANKS

Steve Libby says, "A BIG THANK YOU to all those who attended and performed in the "Some Girls" benefit for As If Productions, your local non-profit film company whose mission is to promote awareness and tolerance of under-represented populations through film, video and other media. And A HUGE THANK YOU to Jimmy, Rich and David for the use of the Stonewall and to all the volunteers who worked to pull the whole fundraiser together. Over 100 people helped raise close to \$1000. We donated 10% each to AIDS Outreach and FACT. The remainder will fund the transfer of Lavender Lens I and II onto film stock. As if...is currently working on two new projects. Our next fundraiser is Mother's Day at DiamonZ, at 8pm."

2



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I would like to be sure that our assets will be transferred to each other, when one of us passes away. What advice can you suggest? Signed, Worried About Future

Dear Worried, Whether it is procrastination, fear, denial or neglect, too many gay men and lesbians die without planning who will inherit their homes and assets. Unlike legally married couples, LGBT people must be aware that birth families and blood relatives continue to challenge same-sex relationships - even after death. In fact, once you are gone, if there is a big estate at stake, your relatives may suddenly forget just how seriously you were committed to your life partner, especially without you there to remind them.

There are a number of ways to ensure your wishes are followed and respected. Gay men and lesbians can transfer wealth from partner to partner, simply and quickly, through "beneficiary designations." Life insurance policies require a beneficiary. As a policy owner, you choose your beneficiary. The person you name will inherit the death benefit when you die. Some mutual fund companies provide a, "Transfer On Death" (TOD) option. As the owner of the asset or policy, you choose who will inherit the mutual funds, or assets when you die.

Beneficiary transfers can be the easiest and least costly way to transfer money. In most cases, birth family or anyone else cannot challenge them. In fact, beneficiary designations usually supersede wills. Keeping assets out of your estate eliminates family and others from challenging the asset through the will. A huge advantage of life insurance is that death benefits are generally considered tax-free income.

Some states require that a beneficiary have an "insurable interest" in the life of the insured. "Insurable interest" means that a beneficiary will suffer some loss if the life of the insured ends. The loss may be economic, as with a business partner, or it might be "affection," as when a life partner or spouse dies. Evidence of an insurable interest may include a domestic-partner agreement, joint bank accounts, a mortgage or deed showing co-ownership and recognized documentation of a civil union. Beneficiary designations may be changed if necessary.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS EVENTS

The next concert of the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, "North and South," will be Saturday, June 23, at 8 pm at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St. Bethlehem, PA. LVGMC welcomes special guests, the Hampton Roads Men's Chorus from Hampton Roads, Virginia in their Lehigh Valley debut. The doors will open at 7:30.

The LVGMC will conduct a silent auction during the concert. Proceeds to support the Chorus. The auction will start at 7 pm and conclude at the end of intermission. Successful bidders will be able to claim their items at the end of the concert. The LVGMC now accepts Master Card and Visa for easier payment.

To reserve your seat for "North and South" or to donate an auction item, contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or P O Box 20712, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0712.

CORRECTION

Last months VFP had information about Camp Mt. Meadow (for kids from GLBT and other non-traditional families) but listed the web address for the California camp rather than the N.J. one. The NJ website: Mt. Meadow is <www.mountainmeadow.org>.

HOT NEWS

GLISN GOES TO NYC

GLISN, the Gay and Lesbian Support Network at Dun & Bradstreet, has chartered a Beiber bus for the NYC Pride Parade in June. GLISN is marching for the second time, and bringing along members of GLEE at Air Products and Equal at Agere.

GAY MEN OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

May 12: It's a "Will and Grace" fest. Come join the fun as we watch our favorite foursome go at it once again. Watch Will as he tries to find a moments peace in his own apartment. See Grace deal with her mother (Debbie Reynolds). Listen as Jack dispenses his own gay truth for the world. Hear Karen's unrestrained mouth as she points out everyone else's faults.

GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St. Bethlehem, unless otherwise noted. Refreshments are served, a one dollar donation is requested. For info email: <gaymenlv@hotmail.com>.

FACT SUPPORT GROUP

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) liaison Bob Burton is holding a support group for those affected and afflicted with AIDS/HIV. To find out more about the group (which is non-therapy) contact the FACT office at 610-820-5519.

GLORA EVENTS

GLORA, the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, announces these social events:

Sunday, May 27 - The 1st mini-golf event of 2001! Meet at Schell's on Route 222 in Reading at 4 pm. Adults \$5, children (6 and under) \$4 for 27 holes. Arrive early and have some ice cream, then after the round, the group will go to dinner.

Saturday, June 2 - Potluck Picnic at Bobs.

Saturday, June 9 - Potluck picnic in Breinigsville.

For information, directions or to arrange to get the GLORA newsletter contact GLORA, PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952 or email <GLORAI@AOL.COM>.

B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB

Join the Club on May 15 at 7pm in the cafe at Barnes & Noble. The discussion will be on "Fall on Your Knees," by Ann Marie MacDonald. Ann Marie MacDonald is a well-known, popular author in Canada and recently appeared in the film "Better Than Chocolate."

ACCO MAY AND JUNE EVENTS

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, announces these May and June Events:

May 24-28, Sister Singers Festival, Grand Rapids, MI.

June 2 or 3, Children's Festival in the Rose Garden, Bethlehem.

For further information contact ACCO at 610-760-1759.

HUNDREDS ATTEND MCC EASTER SERVICES

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley experienced a spiritually energizing Holy Week. Starting with Palm Sunday, MCCLV Worship Team Leader Anthony coordinated a special Palm Sunday procession that included liturgical dancers, candles and the waving of palms. Eric added special trumpet accompaniment and Anthony performed a vocal solo. 102 people were in attendance.

For Holy Thursday, MCCLV hosted a special Seder Meal, with Hospitality Team Leader Joe organizing an abundant table. Readers Ed, Kecia and Kay made the Passover story come alive for the 47 in attendance.

MCCLV offered a Tenebrae Service titled, "Shadows Around the Cross," for the Good Friday service. Readers Dale, Brenda and Ian told the story of the journey to the cross. Les added a vocal solo.

Easter Sunday service started with a dramatization of the Gospel reading and a Procession of Lilies. A brass trio (Eric, Gary and Steve) played throughout the service. Bob and John added a vocal duet. The service ended with a choir singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. 108 people were in attendance Easter Sunday. It was a most memorable Holy Week for MCCLV.

FACT FAMILY PICNIC

Keep July 29 open for the FACT Family Picnic at South Mt. Grove. See next months VFP for details or check the FACT website at <FACTLV.org>.

ENIGMA PLAYERS

The Enigma Players will perform an all new show, *This is Me*, during Pride Week on June 11 at Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton Street, Allentown. *This is Me* tells the story of Heather as she comes to grips with her sexuality. Her family and friends are all effected by her decisions but she needs to make them see that "This is ME!" Tickets are \$8 and all proceeds go to PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley. For more info call 610-381-3989.

FACT BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Don't miss this important and fun fund raising event on Sunday, July 21, at 1:00 pm. The FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) Tournament will be held at the Rose Bowl Lanes, 15th and Summer Streets in Allentown. \$10 per person. 5 Bowlers per Team. Prizes Awarded, 3 Games per Team. Walk-in accepted. Equipment supplied, No average required, *Accepting sponsorship. If you or your group would like to enter, contact FACT, for an entry form: 610-820-5519.

UUCLV SERVICES

The Unitarian Universalist Church's upcoming services include:

May 6: "The Promise of a Wild and Thorny Rose" Rev. Sue Turner

May 13: Youth Sunday -Service planned and led by Senior High Youth Group

May 20: "Transforming the Meaning of Home" Rev. Sue Turner

May 27: UUCLV Men's Group conducted by the men of UUCLV.

All services begin at 10:30 am at the UUCLV Church at 424 Center Street, Bethlehem.

GLOSS CORRECTION

The number for the GLOSS hotline was listed incorrectly in the last VFP. The correct number is 610-434-2966.

GAIL HOOVER THANKS STONEWALL

Gail Hoover wishes to thank the fabulous and wonderful crew at Stonewall for their extraordinary efforts to support her campaign for City Council, by putting on one heck of a show and a wonderful fund raiser last Sunday night (April 28).

Special thanks go out to Maxi Carter, Lil Debbie, Alicia, Nancy Montiel, Charmaine, Jim Black, Chuck, Doug ("Cookie"), Rich, Dave B., Brian, and the campaign committee: Gail E., June, Eric, Liz, Trish, Jim M., James B., Tracy, and Brenda. "Thanks again for all your work, help and support."

PSYCHODRAMA GROUP

Wanted: Individuals interested in a newly forming Psychodrama group. Psychodrama involves role playing in the process of exploring relationships, family issues, and communication. The group would meet weekly or every other week depending on the needs of the participants. If enough interest is generated from the GLBT population, there will be a GLBT group. Anyone interested contact Linda at (610) 253-5454, or email at <LMICH5105@aol.com>.

CALENDAR⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759

AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lavids

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701 As If Productions-Documentary Film Makers

BEARS-Lehigh Valley Bears Club, meets at Stonewall, 1st Sat.-monthly, 8pm. <vbearclub@hotmail.com>, 610-767-3433, PO Box 1396, Allentown PA 18105-1396

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.

Bowling- Thursday Nights, 8:00 pm, Parkway Lanes, 610-691-8303

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8949, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players- 610-432-0706

EQUAL at Agere 610.712.5532

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GLEE-gay and lesbian empowered employees at Air Products

GLASS-at Lehigh Univ. 610.758.3469

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranchollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA-Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter-The Tassie. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email-GLORAINPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS- Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball, Tennis, Racquet Ball 610.434.2966.

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775

HMFF- Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St., 610-791-0716.

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians 1st Monday monthly 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem, 610-758-8642

KS- Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at UUCLV, 6:30pm, Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248 or Donna at: 610-998-0607

Liberty High School- Mission Equality :Gay /StraightAlliance

LVGMC-Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays,Wesley Un. Meth Church, Beth. 610.366.3320, lgmc@hotmail.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church LV,424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775

NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday from 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge), College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386)or 882-2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610-432-8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying)to become a member send \$20 to: PA-GALA, P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 (610.432.5449)

PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, College Center Rm 134 610.967.5219

Pride - LV Pride , (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lp pride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>

MAY 2001

VOTE FOR GAIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RAA	1 LVGMC GLOSS	2	3 RAA GLOSS Bowling	4 KS	5 WDIYGLOSS Lavender Lens 2 BEARS at TO
6 Lavender MCC Lens 2 WDIY at TO HMFF UUCLV	7 RAA	8 GLOSS LVGMC Diamondz for Pride	9 PRIDE BOARD MEETING	10 ACCO RAA Bowling GLOSS	11 KS	12 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
13 PFLAG MCC AS IF UUCLV WDIY	14 RAA	PRIMARY ELECTION AND PARTY AT GAIL'S &N BOOK CLUB	16 Reading PFLAG	17 Bowling GLOSS ACCO	18 KS	19GLOSS PICNIC GLORA- WDIY Dyin La Vida
20 FACT AFFAIR WDIY MCC HMFF UUCLV	21 RAA	22 LVGMC GLOSS Diamondz for Pride	23	24 Stonewall for Pride ACCO Bowling GLOSS RAA	25 KS	26 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
27 Diamondz MC@Pride WDIY Mini Golf HMFF UUCLV	28 RAA	29LVGMC GLOSS	30 Diamondz for Pride	31 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	Happy Birthday, Allyson	

JUNE 2001 GLBT PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Diamondz for Pride KS	2 WDIYGLOSS GLORA Potluck BEARS
3 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF	4 ACCO MOVIE AT CONCERT MUHLENBERG	5 MOVIE AT LEHIGH or LAFAYETTE	6 MOVIE AT CEDAR CREST	7 MOVIE AT MORAVIAN	8 MOVIE AT NCC	9 GMLV GLORA WDIY Potluck GLOSS
10 PFLAG MCC WORKSHOP HMFF WDIY	11 RAA ENIGMA PLAYERS	12	13 PRIDE Film Fest Night	14 RAA Bowling GLOSS ACCO Stonewall for Pride	15 KS PRE- Pride Parties	16 PRIDE Parade & Festiva
17 MCC Prde Service HMFF UUCLV	18 RAA	19 GLOSS LVGMC	20	21 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	22 KS	23 WDIY LV Gay Men's Chorus Concert
24 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	25 RAA	26LVGMC GLOSS	27	28 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	29 KS	30 GMLV WDIY GLOSS

PRIDE WEEK- WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS

JULY 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC WDIY UUCLV	2 RAA	3 LVGMC GLOSS	4	5 RAA GLOSS Bowling	6 KS	7 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
8 PFLAG MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	9 RAA	10 GLOSS LVGMC B&N BOOK CLUB	11 Reading PFLAG	12 ACCO RAA Bowling GLOSS	13 KS	14 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
15 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF	16 RAA	17 GLOSS LVGMC	18	19 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	20 KS	21FACT Bowling WDIY GLOSS GMLV
22 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	23 RAA	24 GLOSS LVGMC	25	26 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	27 KS	28 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
29 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	30 RAA	31 LVGMC GLOSS				

QuEST-Student Group at Lafayette College
Farion Center Box (429, Easton, PA,
<Quest_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.,
Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren. Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,
PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016
610-821-2955 renly @ ren.org

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College
Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533 or 670.8029

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming,
gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Atown
610.435.1587

Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz,
610.865.1028

T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown,
610-820-9270.

TST - Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth.
610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com

Unity - 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV-Unitarian Universalist Church of the
Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem,
18018 610.866.7652.

VFP- Valley Free Press 610.432.5449

YVH-Valley Youth House weekly Group
counseling for troubled GLBT youth 610-432-
6481

WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30-pm
Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way
Out- 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GAY/ STRAIGHT
ALLIANCE 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS**

GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

BINGO FOR FACT AT DIAMONZ- SUNDAYS

RAINBOW BOWLING- THURSDAYS

KINDRED SPIRITS- FRIDAYS

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - MAY 8

PRIDE GENERAL MEETING - MAY 9

GMLV - WILL AND GRACE FEST - MAY 12

AS IF FUNDRAISER MCC M R PFLAG - MAY 13

B&N BOOK CLB. STONEWALL FOR PRIDE - MAY 15

PRIMARY ELECTION - MAY 15

ELECTION PARTY@ GAIL'S - MAY 15

GLOSS ANNUAL PICNIC - MAY 19

FACT SPRING AFFAIR - MAY 20

STONEWALL FOR PRIDE - MAY 20

MCC WORSHIP TEAM - MAY 20

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - MAY 22

STONEWALL FOR PRIDE - MAY 24

GLORIA MINI GOLF - MAY 24-28

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - MAY 27

GLORA MINI GOLF - MAY 27

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - MAY 30

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - JUNE 1

GLORA JUNE 2

ACCO CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL - JUNE 2-3

DIAMONZ FOR PRIDE - JUNE 3

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - MUHLENBERG - JUNE 4

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - LEHIGH - JUNE 5

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - CEDAR CREST - JUNE 6

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - MORA VIAN - JUNE 7

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - NCC - JUNE 8

GLORA POTLUCK JUNE 9

MCC WORKSHOP PHILLY PRIDE - JUNE 10

ENIGMA PLAYERS - JUNE 11

PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL - JUNE 13

STONEWALL FOR PRIDE - JUNE 14

PREPRIDE PARTIES - JUNE 15

PRIDE FESTIVAL - JUNE 16

POST PRIDE PARTIES D & S - JUNE 16

MCC PRIDE SERVICE JUNE 17

LY GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT - JUNE 23

NYC PRIDE FESTIVAL - JUNE 24

FACT BOWLING - JULY 21

FACT FAMILY PICNIC - JULY 29

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE. call to confirm. to post info
- 610-432-5449 email:liztrish@aol.com

CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To announce your Vermont Civil Union or
to get information on how to get a Vermont
Civil Union (step by step), email Valley Free
Press at <liztrish @ aol.com> or phone 610-
432-5449.

HRC HAILS RISE IN DP BENEFITS

The "2001 Benefits Survey" released by
the Society for Human Resource
Management (SHRM), found that 25
percent of respondents reported that they
offer domestic partner benefits to opposite-
sex partners, a huge rise from 10% in 2000.

"This growth rate is phenomenal" said
Kim I. Mills, HRC's education director.
"Domestic partner benefits are becoming a
standard business practice because
employers are learning they help attract
and keep good employees."

The study also found that out of 12 market
sectors polled, the high-tech and computer
industry was most likely to offer DP
benefits.

GLOSS SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
Society Spring schedule:

Volleyball: Weekends at 2 pm until
Memorial Day. Afterwards, Tuesdays in the
Lehigh Parkway and Thursdays in
Catasauqua Borough, both starting at 6:30
pm.

Tennis: Beginning in May, Sundays at 3
pm.

Racquetball: Tuesdays at 8 pm and
Saturdays at 9 pm at the Allentown
Racquet Club.

For more information call the GLOSS
hotline at 610-434-2966.

LOCAL BOY SCOUTS COUNCIL ADOPTS "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

This letter was published in the MC, but
much of the last two paragraphs was cut.

Dear Editor: With regard to "United Way
won't stop funding for local scouts."

The Minsi Trails Council, in an attempt to
sugar-coat a blatantly anti-gay
discrimination policy and appease the local
United Way, has now adopted a "don't ask,
don't tell" policy. To remain in the Boy Scouts,
gay leaders and gay scouts must lie about
their sexual orientation and keep it secret.

Yet Minsi Trails says it has never had to
remove a scout leader due to homosexuality,
actually the "vast majority of cases were for
heterosexual misconduct and misappropriation of funds." So why let
"avowed heterosexuals" be scout leaders?
Because it is unfair to label an entire class of
people immoral or bad role models based on
their sexual orientation?

The local United Way Board members have
decided to adjust their blinders to the high
frequency of teen suicide by gay youth who
fear ostracism. The Board can simply
pretend a BSA policy, that labels all gay men
immoral, couldn't possibly cause any anxiety
in a gay teen scout.

Without much effort, one can argue that
Boy Scout programs do good work in the
community. But so do the Boys and Girls
Clubs, the Girl Scouts, and the YM/WCA.
And they do so without discriminatory
policies. Locally the United Way and Minis
are seeking ways to make the national BSA
policy of discrimination more fair. Why not
just stop discriminating all together? Sure
the BSA has a Constitutional right to
discriminate. So does the Klu Klux Klan. But
no one is required to reward them for it.
Elizabeth Bradbury, Allentown



PRIDE AT WORK CHAPTER FORMING IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

SUBMITTED BY JAMES MACGREGOR HALLEMAN

Discrimination is particularly devastating when it happens in the workplace. Perhaps it has happened to you simply because you are, or are "perceived" to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Coming out or being outed is particularly stressful because Pennsylvania's employment non-discrimination law does not include "sexual orientation." Most of us have jobs where there is no GLBT support group. We know harassment on the job can cause poor job performance and can lower self esteem and morale. Many people feel the loss of their job is one of the worst things that can happen.

Pride at Work (PAW), a constituency of the AFL-CIO, is starting a chapter in the Lehigh Valley. PAW includes unions such as AFSCME and UAW. You don't need to be a union member to join PAW, you don't even need to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered.

Pride at Work is concerned about equal rights and benefits for GLBT workers. PAW combats racism, sexism, homophobia and genderphobia through affirmative action. PAW uses collective bargaining to guarantee worker's rights and make employers hiring packages more attractive.

Pride at Work of the Lehigh Valley provides support at the job and teaches its members how to improve their contracts. National Pride at Work's web site is <www.prideatwork.org>. For further information about Pride at Work in the Lehigh Valley contact James MacGregor Halleman: <James 30338874 @ aol.com> or 484-554-3070.

ANOTHER VIEW

BY WILL FETTERMAN

PLAY IT SAFE

AIDS is not an exclusively sexually transmitted disease (STD). We know that many cases have resulted from shared needles. Still, the emphasis on AIDS as a STD has taken some important focus off other diseases we all need to remember.

Hepatitis A, B, and C are viral infections that affect the liver, and can be fatal. Hepatitis A can be contracted by rimming; or eating contaminated food, or using eating utensils handled by an infected person. Hepatitis B is often contracted from ingesting an infected person's blood or semen; or from sharing infected needles. Hepatitis C follows the same basic lines as Hepatitis B. The bad news is that no vaccine exists for the C-type, but there are vaccines for both hepatitis A and B. If you have not yet been vaccinated, by all means, I urge you to make an appointment with your doctor. This is something we can prevent before it happens.

Two other common viral infections are herpes and venereal warts. Herpes can be spread by making contact with herpes sores around the penis, testicles, anus, or mouth of an infected person. It may be transmitted even if no visible signs are present. There are various strains. Some are treatable, some are not. Warts are also a viral infection, most commonly seen on the skin. Anal warts can develop when a condom is not used. Though transmission of warts is not fully understood, they seem to come from the skin's surface. Warts can be

easily treated by a physician, or with over-the-counter-medications, but it is advisable to always see a doctor first.

The three common bacterial STDs are syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia. Symptoms of syphilis include a small, painless sore near the penis, anus or mouth within ten days to three months after infection, followed by flu-like symptoms of sore throat, aching muscles, swollen lymph nodes, and skin rashes. If untreated, the symptoms often go away, but the germ remains in the body and can be passed on to other partners. Gonorrhea symptoms include a creamy or yellow discharge from the penis, itching or burning when urinating, a sore throat, and burning, itching, or discomfort when defecating. Symptoms appear to vanish over time, but the infection remains, and more major health problems develop. The infection is passed on to other partners. Chlamydia often occurs along with Gonorrhea, and has similar symptoms. Up to 40% of Chlamydia infections are asymptomatic, making it difficult to diagnose. All three are treatable with antibiotics at present. If you believe you may be infected, the best thing is to not have sex until you have been checked by a doctor. Using a condom with oral as well as anal sex is also a protection against acquiring Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia.

Crabs are tiny bugs that live on or near the public and/or anal hair regions. One usually can't tell that one has been carrying crabs until up to 4 to 6 weeks after being infested. Itching, biting, and crawling sensations become easily felt. If you look closely, you will be able to see them. Crabs may be treated with an over-the-counter medicinal shampoo. Read and follow the directions precisely. After shampooing and rinsing, shaving the hair in the infested areas can also help. Crabs lay eggs, which hatch, and renew the cycle. That's why cleanliness and thoroughness are so important.

A yearly physical examination at the doctor's office should be a priority. If you develop any of the above symptoms, schedule an appointment immediately, even if you aren't sure. If you don't have a regular physician, please get one. And if you are especially active sexually, consider being checked every 3 or 4 months for STDs just to be on the safe side.

For more information, the Center for Disease Control STD Hotline is 1-800-227-8922. STD web site: <http://www.ashastd.org>.

Will Fetterman has decided to take a break from writing Another View for a while. The editors thank him for all his fine work.

6

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.



These What's That About? questions were sent to us by people responding to the VFP reader's survey.

Dear WTA: Why is the paper called the LV's Gay and Lesbian Opinion / Newspaper instead of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Opinion / Newspaper? I feel left out as a bisexual. **Survey Respondent**

Dear SR: It's just the name, like PGN (Philadelphia Gay News) or Bi-Zone, or BiNet, or PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) or Renaissance Transgender Association. There is no intention to leave anyone out, and just like all of these other groups, we support all parts of the GLBT and allies community.

We actually chose to use the words gay and lesbian in our logo, because we wanted anyone who sees the paper to know we are not embarrassed to use those words right out there in front of everyone.

Dear WTA: I find your newspaper very informative. PS: Any suggestions on how to deal with (the extremely anti-gay people) of the world? **Robert E. Smith Jr.**

Dear Bob: Thanks for your support of civil rights for all people including gay men and lesbians, over the years, and best wishes on your current run for Mayor of Allentown. If all candidates had your long time dedication to civil rights, discrimination would have been outlawed in Allentown long ago. Re: Handling anti-gay people - keep trying to educate them, or perhaps ignore them, meanwhile take solace in knowing their numbers are steadily decreasing.

Dear WTA: Why not include a personals column in the VFP? (**Several survey respondents asked this.**)

Dear SRs: Most large personals columns - like the Morning Call's - are run by outside contractors who require that you have a lot of space. At this time, we don't have room. To run it ourselves would take a lot of time. What we need is a bigger paper or...Dolly Levy. We will keep the idea in mind, actually we really like "fixing people up."

MCCLV SCHEDULE

Metropolitan Community Church Lehigh Valley

Sunday, May 13 at 4 pm: Media Relations Team Meeting at the Church - call or email the Church office for details.

Sunday, May 20 at 4 pm: Worship Team Meeting; Help plan fabulous Pentecost and Pride services. Meeting will take place at the Church - see Worship Team Leader Anthony for details or phone, email the church office for details.

June 10 from 1 pm to 4 pm: Homosexuality and the Bible Workshop; Facilitated by Rev. Goudy, this workshop gives an overview of the passages most commonly used against the GLBT community. The workshop corrects some common misconceptions and gives participants the tools needed to combat "Bible thumpers." Please call the Church office at 610-954-7775 to attend.

June 16: Lehigh Valley Pridefest and Parade: Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. Be sure to stop by MCC's booth! If you would like to work a shift at MCCLV's booth, please see Outreach and Growth Team Leader Dale.

June 17 at 5:50 pm in the Sanctuary: MCCLV Pride Service.

PRIMARY ELECTION PICKS AND PANS, BY LIZ AND TRISH

For Northampton County Council, vote Joe Brennan (D). The other candidates are sporadic. Use PA-GALA's candidate guide "Gay & Lesbian Vote," to sort them out.

Bethlehem Mayor Don Cunningham (D) is uncontested. Too bad he won't lift a finger to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance, it's not like he has to worry about losing.

Bethlehem City Council hopeful Scott Glenn (R), is the only City candidate to return PA-GALA's questionnaire. If we were Bethlehem Republicans, we'd vote for him, we're sick of Bethlehem Democrats ignoring the GLBT population.

Many school board elections are uncontested. But in Allentown, PA-GALA has endorsed Candido Garcia whose platform favors equal rights for gay and lesbian students, and staff.

For Lehigh County Executive, Matt Croslis (D) returned a great questionnaire and is endorsed by PA-GALA. We've spoken to him and he seems genuinely supportive. Republican candidate Jane Irvin (R) is also endorsed. She too seems very positive.

The Democrat race for Allentown City Council is really hot. Five of the seven Democratic candidates say they will introduce the anti-discrimination ordinance. See the candidate guide for further information.

Of course PA-GALA has endorsed Gail Hoover (D) for Allentown City Council, for her many years working for GLBT rights and her active role in the community. PA-GALA has also endorsed Julio Guridy (D) for Council. He has a history of equal rights efforts and has been active with AIDS organizations. Don't be fooled by the Democrat label, Emma Tropiano (D) and David Howells Sr. (D) both refused to co-sponsor the anti-discrimination legislation in 1998 and Tropiano even lied about her intention to co-sponsor before the election. Though you can vote for four candidates, we suggest you "bullet vote" for just Gail and Julio, to ensure they win.

Allentown Mayor, Republicans: Though he probably will not win the nomination, PA-GALA has endorsed Robert E. Smith Jr. (R). Bob is passionately pro-equal rights for GLBT people and has proven it by helping to spearhead the introduction of sexual orientation to the anti-discrimination ordinance, when he was on the Allentown Human Relations Commission. He has been a member of PA-GALA for years and has given significant donations to the Rainbow Team. When Bob served on City Council, he alerted us to civil rights concerns. Had it not been for him, city employees could have lost their anti-discrimination protection. Unfortunately, Bob Smith's passionate and sometimes fanatical dedication to civil rights and other issues makes him unattractive to many Republican voters. That's why he probably won't win the nomination. We wish Bob had run for City Council instead.

Also on the Republican side are candidates Robert Lovett (former Air Products Exec), Allentown City Solicitor Robert Daday (are any Republican guys not named Bob?) and City Council member Pam Varcony. Lovett was fairly positive about supporting the anti-discrimination ordinance on his questionnaire, though he does not support domestic partner benefits for city workers or funding from the city for AIDS projects. He did state he gives half his United Way contribution to AIDS Service Center.

Robert Daday is obsessively anti-gay. In a recent Morning Call article, his first revelation was "gays in the military" caused him to become a Republican. As City Solicitor, Daday tried to remove anti-discrimination protections from employees of the City. He also lobbied Allentown City Council to reject discussion of the anti-discrimination ordinance by using the "fuzzy law" concept that, "it is illegal to protect gays from discrimination in PA." He frequently

states this odd concept as though it were fact, though it is obviously untrue. Don't let anyone you know vote for him. Remind everyone that Heydt's worst decisions were frequently Daday's ideas, especially the practice of back-room negotiations.

Pam Varcony (R) volunteered to issue a proclamation at the Pride Festival last year. She will probably win the nomination and Allentown could do far worse than have her as Mayor. Unfortunately her questionnaire responses were weak. Varcony is intelligent and seems to understand our issues, yet she only said she would sign the anti-discrimination legislation, not speak in favor of it. There are 87 Republicans on the PA-GALA Allentown list (and hundreds of Democrats). If you are a Republican, talk to Varcony about GLBT issues.

In the Democrat race for Mayor there's Roy Afflerbach, Siobahn "Sam" Bennett and Dave Clark. Clark seems to believe every problem in Allentown can be solved by making Hamilton Street two way again. Uh huh.

The contest is between Bennett and Afflerbach. For the first time in history, Atown's GLBT voters have been in the extraordinary position of being "courted" by both candidates. Is that cool or what??!

We used to be ignored by everybody and now they want us. Make no mistake though, they want us because we have become a strong, organized voting block. No other minority group produces information like PA-GALA's and direct mails it to so many voters. GLBT votes can decide an election. Remember, the last Allentown Mayoral Primary was won by one vote, and we have hundreds.

Both Bennett and Afflerbach back the anti-discrimination ordinance and would actively work for it. They both support domestic partnership benefits for city workers, and they understood the crime, funding and AIDS questions equally. They both have made efforts to include openly gay or lesbian people on their campaign teams, and they have both attended gay events and are members of PA-GALA. They both wrote very good answers. We feel either one, as Mayor of Allentown, would work for the rights of GLBT people. Which is a wonderful thing for us to be able to say.

PA-GALA has chosen to endorse Roy Afflerbach. Although he and Sam answered the questions equally, Roy has a significant record of pro-gay and pro-AIDS / HIV votes. Back in 1995, he was a co-sponsor of the State Hate Crimes Bill. He co-sponsored a program to help people with AIDS / HIV continue their health insurance and he voted for the HIV Confidentiality Act. In 1998, as a candidate for Congress, Roy stood on the Pride Fest stage in front of Morning Call reporters and called for the passage of Allentown's Anti-discrimination Ordinance and he also stated he would co-sponsor ENDA and the Federal Hate Crimes Bill.

PA-GALA's Political Director Steve Black has been lobbying State Legislators in Harrisburg for years to sponsor pro-GLBT legislation. Steve tells them GLBT voters will remember their actions when we go to the polls. This Primary is a chance for the GLBT voters of Allentown to remember the support Roy Afflerbach has demonstrated over the years. And to show other candidates and those already in office that we remember the support (or lack of support) of our friends.

Vote on May 15, and get every pro-GLBT person you know to go to the polls and use the PA-GALA candidate guide. Our votes are why candidates are finally listening to us.

Note: In some cases, PA-GALA has endorsed a Democrat and a Republican in the same race. That's because they're running for their party's nomination, not against each other.

POP QUIZ

1. In a PA Primary Election, people who are registered as independents can _____.
 A. not vote for candidates B. vote for independents
 C. sometimes vote for ballot issues
 D. only vote for Libertarians
2. Mayor Don Cunningham of Bethlehem _____.
 A. is running uncontested
 B. has never publicly supported GLBT rights
 C. has never filled out a PA-GALA questionnaire
 D. is a Democrat
3. School Board races are often won in the Primary Election because there are _____ candidates.
 A. so few B. cross filed C. so many D. only ten
4. According to the "Victory Fund" how many "out" GLBT elected officials are there currently in office in PA. A. 0 B. 1 C. 3 D. 5
5. The last Allentown Democratic Primary for Mayor was decided by ___ vote/s? A. 1 B. 44 C. 75 D. 95
6. "Bullet" voting for only one person when you are allowed to vote for four, helps a candidate win by:
 A. Advancing one candidate above the pack
 B. Advancing the entire group
 C. Equalizing the vote
 D. Confusing opponents
7. Which Republican candidate for Atown Mayor has politically supported gay rights since 1996?
 A. Daday B. Varcony C. Lovett D. Smith
8. Which of the three candidates for Lehigh County Executive refused, as an Allentown City Council person to co-sponsor the amendment to the anti-discrimination ordinance.
 A. Ervin B. Croslis C. Bausch D. Baker
9. How many of the four Republican candidates for Allentown Mayor are white guys named Bob?
 A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
10. (According to PA-GALA info) The Allentown GLBT voting block could represent ____ of the deciding Primary vote. A. 3% B. 5% C. 10% D. 15%

1.A+C 2.A/D 3.A+B 4.A 5.A 6.A 7.D 8.C 9.C 10.D

TO GET A VALLEY FREE PRESS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY MONTH, BECOME A MEMBER OF PA-GALA.
MAIL A CHECK FOR \$20 TO:
PA-GALA P.O. BOX 20825
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

Valley Free Press is produced by Ruby Zebu Productions which owns the copyright thereto. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the editors. Editors: Elizabeth Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan; Columnists: Elizabeth Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, William Fetterman, Denise McCalvey, Tracie Simon, Emily Dugan, Ruby Zebu, and others; Quality Control: Ma Lucia

PRODUCTION COSTS OF THE VALLEY FREE PRESS ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY ELIZABETH BRADBURY ANTIQUES LTD.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were legally protected from unequal treatment based upon actual or perceived: race, color, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University
Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA

Pride of the LV
LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

AIDS OUTREACH

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater
19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP

QUOTE

"Yes, I'm a homosexual. Perhaps I'm underestimating the consequences of the discussion we are having today, but I'm 48 years old. ... I must live with my convictions ... and my career has never been the most important thing to me."

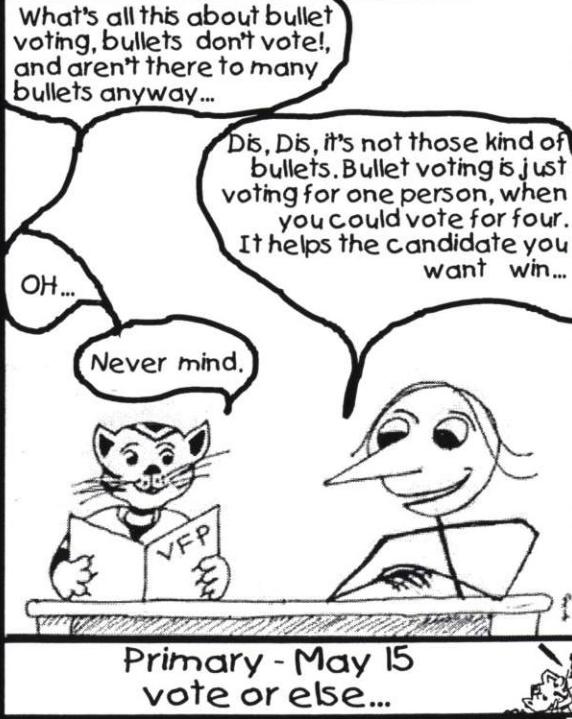
Newly elected Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë in a 1998 TV interview.

PRIDE FESTIVAL, FILMS NEED VOLUNTEERS

Pride Festival: Saturday June 16, Cedar Beach, Allentown
 7 am-10 am: -- set-up tents and equipment
 11am- 7 pm: -- restroom attendants/garbage (2 hour shifts)
 10:30-6:30 pm: -- food and beverage stand (2 hour shifts)
 12 noon - 6 pm: -- Pride Booth (mdse. & questions)
 6 pm -7 pm: -- take down tents and equipment

Film Festival, held at various LV colleges.
 Monday, June 4 through June 9 and June 13
 set up, sell tickets, beverages and snacks
 Any questions please call the PrideLine at (610) 270-6200 or email: pridelv@hotmail.com.

Distelfink © 5/01 "With a Bullet!"
 by Ruby Zebu



The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.